

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a computing system for ranking items in a search query result, the method comprising:
receiving a query specifying one or more terms;
generating a query result identifying a plurality of items satisfying the query; and

for a plurality of items identified in the query result, combining ratings reflecting both (a) the frequencies with which users selected the item in query results produced for earlier queries specifying one or more terms of the query and (b) levels of effort required to make such selections based on the position of the item in the earlier query results, such that the combination of ratings produces a ranking value for the item; and

displaying the items identified by the generated query result in accordance with their produced ranking values.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the ratings that are combined reflect the number of items that preceded the selected items in the query results from which they were selected.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the ratings that are combined reflect the set of navigation commands needed to reach the selected items in the query results from which they were selected.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the ratings that are combined reflect the extent to which the query results from which the items were selected were scrolled to reach the selected items.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the ratings that are combined reflect, in the query results from which the items were selected, the number of pages of each query result that preceded the page of each query result containing the selected item.

6. (Currently Amended) A method in a computing system for compiling statistics usable to rank items in a distinguished query result produced for a distinguished query, the method comprising:

receiving a rating set of queries, each query in the rating set specifying one or more terms;

for each query in the rating set,

generating a query result identifying one or more items satisfying the query;

allowing a user to select one or more of the items identified in the query result; and

for items selected from the query result, for terms specified by the query,

determining an adjustment factor indicating the level of effort necessary to effectuate selection of the item based on the position of the item in the query result; and

adjusting a rating score corresponding to the combination of the selected item and the term specified by the query by the determined adjustment factor;

such that rating scores are produced that are usable to rank items in a distinguished query result produced for a distinguished query and displaying the items in the distinguished query result in accordance with their rating scores.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein determining each adjustment factor includes increasing the adjustment factor for items occurring in the query result before the selected item.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein determining each adjustment factor includes increasing the adjustment factor for navigation operations performed to reach the selected item in the query result.

9-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method in a computing system for ranking items in a search-query result, the method comprising:

receiving a query specifying one or more terms;

generating a query result identifying a plurality of items satisfying the query; and

for a plurality of items identified in the query result, combining ratings of frequencies with which users selected the item in earlier queries specifying either (a) one or more terms of the query or (b) a term sharing a root with a term of the query to produce a ranking value for the item; and

displaying the items identified by the generated query result in accordance with their produced ranking values.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computing system to rank items in a search-query result by:

receiving a query specifying one or more terms;

generating a query result identifying a plurality of items satisfying the query; and

for a plurality of items identified in the query result, combining ratings of frequencies with which users selected the item in earlier queries specifying either

(a) one or more terms of the query or (b) a term sharing a root with a term of the query to produce a ranking value for the item; and
displaying the items identified by the generated query result in accordance with their produced ranking values.

20. (Currently Amended) A method in a computing system for compiling statistics usable to rank items in a distinguished query result produced for a distinguished query, the method comprising:

receiving a rating set of queries, each query in the rating set specifying one or more terms;

for each query in the rating set,

generating a query result identifying one or more items satisfying the query;

allowing a user to select one or more of the items identified in the query result; and

for items selected from the query result, for terms specified by the query, adjusting a rating score corresponding to the combination of the selected item and the root of the term specified by the query, the rating score indicating the relative frequency with which users have selected the selected item when the selected item has been identified in search results generated from queries containing a search term sharing a root of the search term specified by the query, to produce rating scores usable to rank items in a distinguished query result produced for a the distinguished query; and

displaying the items from the distinguished query result in accordance with their produced rating scores.

21-26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein displaying the items from the generated query result includes sorting the items by their ranking values.

28. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein displaying the items from the generated query result includes displaying items with a ranking value greater than a predefined threshold.